

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Monday, 20 March 2017.

PRESENT

Cllr P Hollick (Chairman)
Cllr P Downing (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs A Barker
P A Duckett

Cllrs Mrs S A Goodchild
G Perham

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs N B Costin
Mrs D B Gurney
Cllr Mrs C Hegley
B Walker

Substitutes: Cllrs M A G Versallion

Members in Attendance: Cllrs E Ghent Deputy Executive Member for Adult
Social Care
C C Gomm
B J Spurr Executive Member for Health
Mrs T Stock Deputy Executive Member for Health

Officers in Attendance: Mrs P Everitt Scrutiny Policy Adviser
Mrs J Ogle Director of Social Care, Health and
Housing
Mrs R Preen Scrutiny Policy Advisor
Mrs C Shohet Assistant Director of Public Health

Others in Attendance Mrs S Boulton Chairman
Ms M Brooks Assistant Director Commissioning
Mr C Goodson Senior Locality Manager
Mr C Hartley East of England Ambulance Service
Dr Z Kittler Clinical Director, East London
Foundation Trust
Mr P Rix Associate Locality Director for Mental
Health Central Bedfordshire
Mr D Simpson Interim Chairman Central
Bedfordshire Healthwatch
Mr M Tait Accountable Officer

SCHH/16/80 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 January 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SCHH/16/81 Members' Interests

Cllr A Barker declared an interest as she had been an employee of the East of England Ambulance Trust Service and was supporting a friend who was a current user of East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) services.

Cllr S Goodchild also declared she was supporting a friend who was a current user of ELFT Services.

Cllr M Versallion declared an interest as a non Executive Director of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

SCHH/16/82 Chairman's Announcements and Communications

The Chairman wished to extend his thanks both personally and on behalf of the Committee to Maurice Jones, who had retired from the Council, for his contribution to the establishment of Central Bedfordshire and for his work more recently as Executive Member for Health.

A visit to the Bromley-by-Bow Community Hub would take place on Tuesday 11 May 2017. Members of the Committee had been invited to attend.

The Chairman would attend a Scrutiny Health Master Class event, also in May.

SCHH/16/83 Petitions

None.

SCHH/16/84 Questions, Statements or Deputations

None.

SCHH/16/85 Call-In

None.

SCHH/16/86 Requested Items

None.

SCHH/16/87 Executive Members Update

The Deputy Executive Member for Adult Social Care advised:-

- The Council had received the top Pinder Design Award for Best Independent Living Scheme at Priors View, Dunstable and an award for the Greenfields scheme in Leighton Buzzard.
- The additional money allocated to the social care budget. A report outlining how this money would be apportioned would be provided.

- Attendance at the Grove Theatre for a Dementia event. Members requested a dementia workshop be arranged later in the year to include a shortened version of the film 'Inside Out of Mind'.
- Attendance at the Saville Seminar on how to set up a Housing Development Company. Members welcomed the initiative and expected to receive more details at a future meeting.

SCHH/16/88 **East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) - Performance Update**

Sarah Boulton, Chair, EEAST advised Members of the regional picture for the Ambulance Service and advised of improvements that had been made. The improvements had come at a cost and the EEAST had incurred a deficit in funding and had a capacity shortage. The CQC had praised the service for its outstanding care of patients and would continue its focus on clinical triage and the new practice that involved professional advice to paramedics on treatment of patients that avoided a trip to A&E.

Chris Hartley, Director of Communications and Clive Goodson, Senior Locality Manager outlined performance improvements and new innovations implemented by the Ambulance Trust. Of particular note was the success of the Mental Health Street Triage service that had prevented ambulance attendance. The implementation of a Service Plan Review would help inform more efficient and effective operations and identify the resources required to deliver the required service.

Members welcomed the direction of travel and the innovations made by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust in joint working initiatives with other emergency services.

RECOMMENDED the Committee

- 1. Appreciated the work undertaken by the EEAST.**
- 2. Noted that there is a current financial deficit but were reassured that paying it back will not impinge upon performance.**
- 3. Recognised the need to reset the targets by which time an ambulance is expected to reach the patient to take account of the nature of the emergency call.**
- 4. Welcomed evidence of how the triage system was saving a number of patients from a hospital admission.**

SCHH/16/89 **Townsend Court Houghton Regis**

Matthew Tait, Chief Accountable Officer, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) apologised for the lack of consultation on the relocation of Mental Health patients on behalf of the BCCG and ELFT. Patients had been moved from Keats Ward, Weller Wing, Bedford to more appropriate accommodation at Townsend Court, Houghton Regis. Service provision for older patients had been provided at Fountains Court in Bedford for the short to medium term, until a longer term strategy had been developed by the BCCG and ELFT.

Members noted the changes in delivery of mental health care services had been carried out in the patients' best interests. ELFT had increased the

number of clinical staff on wards in the past two years and assurances were given that patients with transport difficulties would be helped on a case by case basis by support staff with transport issues. ELFT are looking at ways of funding appointed drivers to assist both staff and service users and carers with transport issues in the future.

Arrangements would be made for Ward Members and Members of the Committee who wished to visit the Townsend Court Houghton Regis and Fountains Court in Bedford. The Deputy Executive Member also requested a meeting for Ward Members with ELFT officers to discuss the changes to mental health services.

RECOMMENDED the Committee

- 1. Expressed its concern about the very late communication on the intention to change the use of Townsend Court. Central Bedfordshire looks to be informed about any such changes at an early date in the future.**
- 2. Appreciates ELFT is seeking to improve its mental health services and make good use of its estate but reiterates the fact that Central Bedfordshire has a particular concern for our residents.**
- 3. Seeks reassurance that when considering a change of venue for people with certain conditions e.g. Alzheimers, such is taken into consideration.**
- 4. Seeks assurance that transport issues are considered when making changes to its service provision.**
- 5. Appreciates the offer for members to visit Townsend Court and Fountain Court and would like such visits to be arranged in the near future.**

SCHH/16/90 Enquiry into Integration of Health and Social Care in Central Bedfordshire - update

The Chairman updated the Committee on the work of the Enquiry Team in their investigation into the Integration of Health and Social Care in Central Bedfordshire. A report would be submitted on Monday 15 May, 2017.

Noted the update.

SCHH/16/91 Work Programme 2016/17 and Executive Forward Plan

The Chairman advised of changes to the work programme that included the addition of the Homelessness Reduction report scheduled for June and the rescheduled date for the Enquiry Report. The Assistant Director Public Health advised a pharmaceutical needs assessment would be undertaken and the findings of this and the Judicial Review would be submitted to the Committee later this year.

Noted the changes to the work programme outlined above.

SCHH/16/92 **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Proposal**

The Scrutiny Policy Adviser introduced a report that set out proposals for a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes.

The Committee were in favour of option 3 and supported the proposal that Central Bedfordshire Council undertake the duties of Chairman as it was the only Council without a hospital within its boundary. Members also supported the proposal for Bedford Borough to administer the JHOSC and for the venue to be rotated for each meeting.

Members supported the proposal that the following definitions of a substantive change in NHS provision be included in the Terms of Reference:

- a change in the way the service is delivered;
- a change in the place the service is delivered;
- a change of partners and/or the way in which partners co-operate;
- a change in budgetary arrangements.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1. To adopt option 3 and have a JHOSC with statutory scrutiny powers**
- 2. To promote the appointment of a Central Bedfordshire Chairman on the basis that Central Bedfordshire does not have a General Hospital within its boundary, would bring some independence to the table and has the larger population in Bedfordshire.**
- 3. That the Chair initially be held for two years until the result of the next elections in 2019**
- 4. That Central Bedfordshire is supportive that Bedford Borough Council is to administer arrangements.**
- 5. That the meeting venue be rotated between the participating authorities;**
- 6. That the definition of 'substantial change' be circulated and include the provision outlined at item 4.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.43 p.m.)

Chairman.....

Dated.....